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REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated September 26, 2005, Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. The allowability of Claim 9 is noted. The allowability of Claims 3-7, 12-16, 18, and 19 if rewritten in independent form is also noted.

The Examiner has noted the submission of an illegible reference cited in the information disclosure statement. Applicants submit herewith a legible copy of "A Framework for Network Protocol Software" as cited in the information disclosure statement filed December 6, 2001.

The drawings stand objected to because Figure 4A Step 408 and Figure 4B Steps 446 and 448 refer to router 320. Applicants have amended the drawings and replacement sheets are submitted herewith.

The disclosure stands objected to for the following informalities.

The Brief Description of the Drawings refers to Figure 4. Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings to refer to Figures 4A and 4B.

Page 4, lines 13-14 have also been corrected. Applicants also corrected a typographical error in line 19.

Likewise, the Examiner mentions Claims 1 and 10 which have been amended to read "an ARP" rather than "a ARP."

Applicant has provided a more descriptive title.

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perlman* (5,420,862) in view of *Postel* (RFC 925).

Applicants have rewritten Claims 1 and 10 to include the limitations of Claims 2 and 3 and 11 and 12, respectively. Applicants have removed the last lines of Claims 1 and 10 as they do not add to the content of the claim.

Claims 2, 8, 11 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perlman* in view of *Postel* as applied to Claims 1 and 10 above, in further view of *Plummer* (RFC 826).

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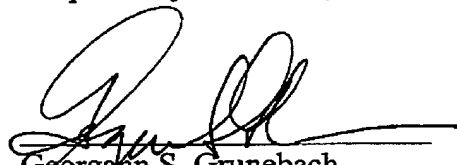
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Applicants have canceled Claim 2, amended Claim 8 to be dependent from Claim 1 and is believed to be allowable, canceled Claim 11, and rewrote Claim 17 to be dependent from now allowable Claim 10. Applicants therefore respectfully submits that this rejection is also overcome.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 14, 2005

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